Engraving by Venturini (1685): the Fountain of Venus, in the room of the villa which led to the secret garden, with a sleeping Venus. At either side of the basin there were antique statues.

a Jupiter with an eagle. Four statues standing approximately five *palmi* high were placed upon the railing of the double loggia.

The Modena State Archives also preserves the documents pertaining to the negotiations carried out by the King of Naples with the d'Este family for the purchase of the entire collection. The bargaining was broken off because Cardinal Valenti who represented Pope Benedict XIV made a better offer: 5,000 *scudi* for only fourteen of the statues — which was the price offered by the King of Naples for the whole lot. This group which included the finest works in the collection (e.g. the resting Satyr by Praxiteles, the Cupid, the two Amazons, the Psyche, etc.) was later donated, on May 25, 1753, to the Capitoline Museum by Benedict XIV. Despite the sale of some, many of the valuable pieces were left in the villa. In fact, when Winckelmann was commissioned by Cardinal Alessandro Albani to select pieces for his collection, he recommended a statue of Esculapius, as well as statues of a philosopher, a rivergod, and a personification of the Nile.

An inventory drawn up by Pannini and Zoboli showed that in about 1768-1769 there were sixty-five statues left. A number of these came into the possession of the Roman merchant Giuseppe d'Este who sold them to the English art dealer Jenkins. They were then bought by Blundell and Smith Barry for the Ince and Marbury collections. The statues mentioned in the Ince collection are: Jupiter, Juno, Mercury, Ancirrus, Cybel, Mars, a cupid with a goose, Julia, hermaphrodite, a head of a rivergod, a wind sarcophagus (not identified), a sarcophagus with hunting scenes. The statue of Zeus enthroned was purchased by the Marbury Collection.

In 1774 there were still seven statues left in the villa. By order of Duke Francesco III they were sent off to Modena to be used to decorate his villa at Sassuolo.

Most of the statues of the Villa d'Este were discovered in Hadrian's Villa, on the Palatine Hill, or elsewhere in and around Rome.